

**ADAMS, PAUL JAY  
(1901-1985)  
PAPERS  
1918-1962**

*Processed by:*

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Locations: III-D-3; VI-G-1

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71-144, 72-249, 74-13, 75-301.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Paul Jay Adams Papers, 1918-1962, contain approximately 50 items and 30 volumes, and occupies 2.52 cubic feet of shelf space. Adams, who lived in Crab Orchard, Tennessee, donated these materials to the Tennessee State Library and Archives over a number of years comprising eleven donations requiring separate accession numbers for each addition. Each separate accession is noted as such on the Container List.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Paul Jay Adams Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly or individual research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Paul Jay Adams, the son of a Presbyterian Minister, Dr. Clair S. Adams, was born September 4, 1901. He lived for three years (1915-1918) at Burnsville, North Carolina, a town located between the Green and Black Mountains, where his father served as minister and was connected with the Stanley McCormick School. Paul was a great lover of nature and spent much of his time hunting and climbing the mountains near his home. In August 1918, the Adams family moved to Knoxville and from here he was able to make many trips into the Smoky Mountains.

Early in 1918, Paul Adams began keeping a diary, inspired to do so by reading of the very lengthy diary kept by his kinsman, John Quincy Adams. At first the entries were brief and irregular but as time progressed, they increased in length and volume after volume was filled. After the first two or three volumes, nature observations, bird lists, tree lists, flower lists, maps, photographs, and field notes were brought together in the diaries. Paul became a member of the Smoky Mountain Conservation Association, the East Tennessee Ornithological Society, the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, and other organizations of similar interest. One entry in 1925 records that he had climbed Mt. LeConte for the eighty- first time. He completed his 500th ascent of this mountain in the summer of 1963. With the development of the Smoky Mountain National park area by the United States Department of the Interior, Adams served as a guide for numerous officials and went on all the Park Commission trips made into the mountains before the establishment of the Park. The diaries are very full for all these trips into the mountains. Many of the birds, plants, and trees discovered by Adams were rare specimens. There are bird, tree, flower, and place indexes for some of the volumes.

Several of the diaries deal with trips away from his beloved mountains but Paul Adams was never as happy away from home in the big cities as he was while climbing the mountains. One volume contains an account of his trip with his brother, Robert, to Washington, D.C., in 1922. Other volumes contain accounts of his trips to Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. On one occasion he was called to the University of Michigan to assort and label a collection of specimen plants, rocks, and insects from the Smoky Mountains. He has had numerous jobs which have made use of his vast knowledge of birds, trees, and flowers found in the mountains, as well as his work as a guide for the area. In the fall of 1931, the Adams family moved to Alpine, Tennessee and while there Paul ran a nursery. In 1935, he moved to Crab Orchard, Tennessee, which has been his home since that time.

In addition to the diaries there are two scrapbooks, a price list for his Alpine Nursery, one volume containing addresses, some accounts of the Smoky Mountain Conservation Association, and some letters written while living on Mt. LeConte to members of his family and others. These were removed from the diary and put in folders for better preservation.

The diaries are invaluable to students interested in studying trees, plants, birds, animals, and insects inhabiting the Smokies. The volumes deposited in the Manuscript Section by Mr. Paul Jay Adams, Crab Orchard, Tennessee, end in 1962. Other volumes will be added to the collection later.

Two large volumes for the periods from October 3, 1962- December 31, 1963, (552 typed pages) and from January 1, 1964- December 31, 1964 (466 typed pages) have been deposited with the collection. These volumes are indexed with especial reference to birds, plants, and animals seen in the Smoky Mountains. In addition to these diaries, two little volumes belonging to Reverend Clair Stark Adams have been included. One of these volumes contains the forms for the various ceremonies of the church with notes written on the margins by the minister. The second little volume is called "Nature Studies" and contain the names and some descriptions of birds seen by Reverend Adams in the years 1906-1908 in the area of Bement, Illinois.

### **ADAMS, PAUL JAY**

#### **Honorary Memberships**

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry  
Cumberland Mountain Craft Association  
Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association  
Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association  
Society of True Tennessee Mountainmen  
Smoky Mountains Hiking Club  
Sons of the Revolution  
Southern Highland Handicraft Guild  
Tennessee Native Plant Society  
Tennessee Ornithological Society  
Tennessee Trails Association  
University of Tennessee Arboretum Society  
The Wilderness Society  
Honorary Park Naturalist, Tennessee Conservation Department

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**CONTAINER LIST**

**Box 1: III-D-3; Ac. No. 967**

1. Diary-- January 1, 1918- September, 1918 (contains some entries for 1919);  
Diary-- November 26, 1918- December 15, 1918
2. Diary-- January, 1918- June, 1919-- Indexed
3. Diary-- October- December, 1919-- Indexed
4. Diary-- October, 1919- May 1920
5. Diary-- June- December, 1920
6. Diary-- January- December, 1920
7. Diary-- July 22-29, 1920-- Mt. Mitchell Trip;  
Diary-- August 12-27, 1920-- Boy Scout Camp

**Box 2: III-D-3; Ac. No. 967**

1. Diary-- January- December, 1921; some entries for 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, and 1926  
(several trips written in detail for summer of 1926).
2. Diary-- January- September, 1922 (several trips in summer of 1922).
3. Diary-- September, 1922- September, 1923-- Bird index included.

**Box 3: III-D-3; Ac. No. 967**

1. Diary-- October 8, 1923- November, 1926.
2. Diary-- July 13, 1925- October 31, 1925.
3. Clippings-- Removed from diary dated July 13- October 31, 1925.
4. Correspondence-- Incoming-- Adams, Paul Jay-- July- August, 1925; February 18, 1927-- removed from diary dated July 13- October 31, 1925.
5. Correspondence- Outgoing-- Adams, Paul Jay-- July- August, 1925; February 6, 1927--  
Removed from diary dated July 13- October 31, 1925.
6. Diary-- October- November, 1925;  
Diary-- January- February, 1927-- Observations in a radius of five mile of Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

**Box 4: III-D-3; Ac. No. 967 unless otherwise indicated**

1. Diary-- December 31, 1927 April 15, 1928;  
Diary-- April 29, 1928- December 23, 1928
2. Diary-- January 1, 1929- April 2, 1929;  
Diary-- April 4, 1929- May 31, 1929;  
Diary-- July 27, 1929- October 2, 1932.
3. Diary-- October, 1932- April, 1948;  
Diary-- January, 1957- September, 1963.

4. Smoky Mountain Conservation Association Records; Address Book

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**Box 4: III-D-3; Ac. No. 967 unless otherwise indicated, continued:**

- 5.a. Index to Diary-- 1962-1963, Ac. No. 1060
  - b. Diary addition-- January- December, 1966, Ac. No. 1870.
  - c. Diary addition-- 1967, Ac. No. 68-1.
  - d. Diary addition-- 1968, Ac. No. 69-1.
  - e. Diary addition-- 1969, Ac. No. 69-337.

**Box 5: III-D-3; Ac. No. 967**

- 1. Scrapbook-- 1907-1920
- 2. Scrapbook-- 1920-1951
- 3. Price List-- Alpine Nursery, 1931-1932; 1933-1934
- 4. Starting of Mt. LeConte Lodge-- 1925

**Box 6: III-D-3; Ac. No. 1435**

- 1. Diary-- October 3, 1962- December 31, 1963-- Indexed
- 2. Diary-- January 1, 1964- December 31, 1964-- Indexed
- 3. Two volumes of the Rev. Clair Stark Adams:
  - a. Forms for special occasions-- Marriage, Burial, Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Ordination, Dedication, etc. Presbyterian Church with notes by the minister.
  - b. Nature Studies-- Contains names and descriptions of birds seen in the area of Bement, Illinois, by the Rev. Clair Stark Adams during the years 1906-1908.
  - c. Photograph of the Rev. Clair Stark Adams and his children.

**Box 7: VI-G-1; Ac. No. 71-144**

- 1. Diary-- 1965
- 2. Diary-- 1966
- 3. Diary--1967

**Box 8:**

1968- Index  
1969- 1971 diaries

**Box 9**

Diary.....1972  
Diary.....1973  
General Data-- Adams Family

